Spring, a Minuet presented by Itou Hachi

春のメヌエット

伊藤ハチ

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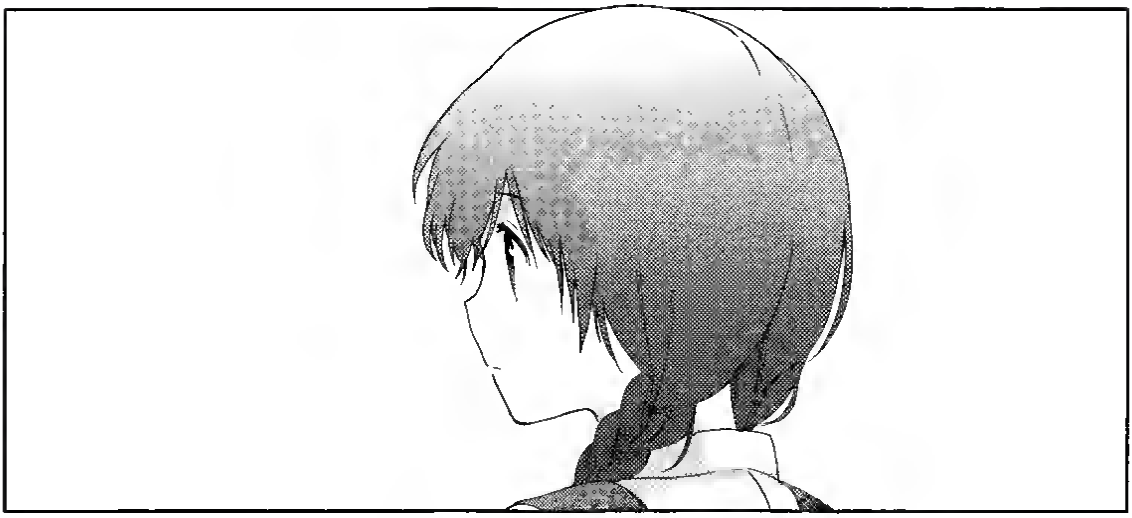
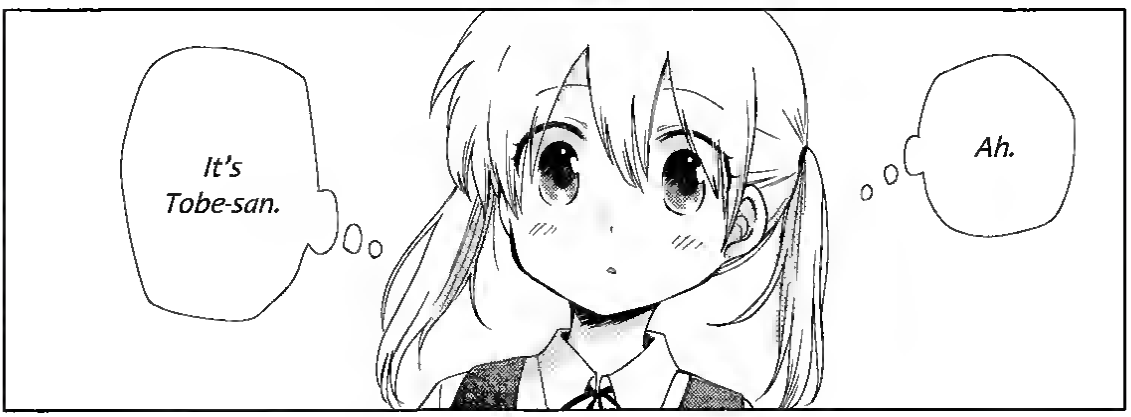
Nao!!
2-1
Kaoru-chan, you're in Class 1 too!?
Hurrayay!!
We'll be together again for our second year!
Quiet down, all of you!!!
Aaahh, we've got Sa-tou-sensei again!?
Get to your seats!!





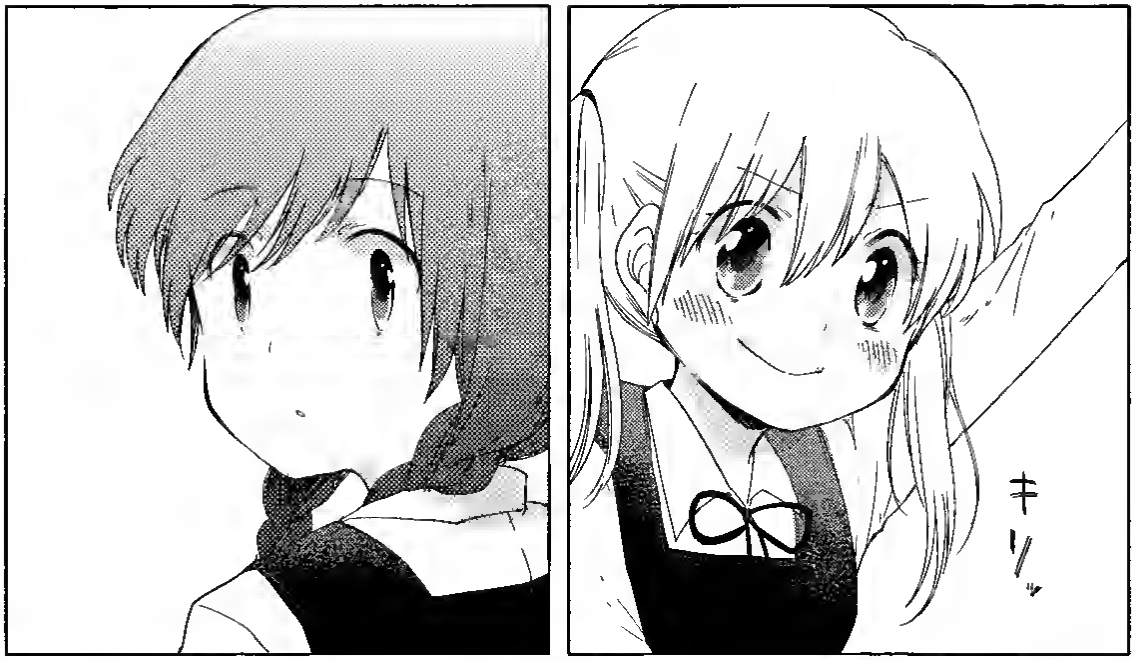
Did you know? Apparently, that girl is deaf.

Thank goodness!
...
Hachiya?
PHEW
Next we have Nakata
Nishimura,
Is there a Hachiya Nao in this class?
WA!
Here!
Here!!!
One "here" will suffice, thank you
Jeez, Nao!
Also, you're being too loud
So... her name is Tobe Takako, huh?
I wonder if we could be friends...
You're killin me Nao..!

Tobe-san?
Yeah!! I wanna be friends with her!
Well yeah, but... That'd be kinda hard, right?
Why?
Didn't I mention earlier? She can't hear.
Yeah, I know that?
MUNCH
MUNCH
So, it's like... How would you even be able to interact with her...?

I guess that is the question...
How would I be able to interact with her?
Maybe it's because everyone in class is stuck on the same question,
that Tobe-san always seems to be alone...
Ding
Dong
Ding
Dong
She's always reading a book by herself, but maybe she just likes reading?
Alright, it's time to decide on class positions.
Anyone who wants to volunteer, please raise your hand.

... So, that makes Tobe our Library Officer.
First up, Health Officer.
Me-.
What should I do to become friends with her...?
!
Me!
Is there one other person who'd like to help her with–



Library Room
Let's see. It's your first job, so...
Perhaps I could have you sort some light reading books.
Okaaay
Umm... This book would go... here.
Uggh. What a pain...
Geh
It's too high

CHOPIN
J.S. BACH
"Chopin"
...
"Beet-
hoven"
...
"Shu-
bert"
...
Ah.
This
library
has sheet
music!
I'm
gonna
check
out a
bunch!
KYA!
It's
really
windy!!

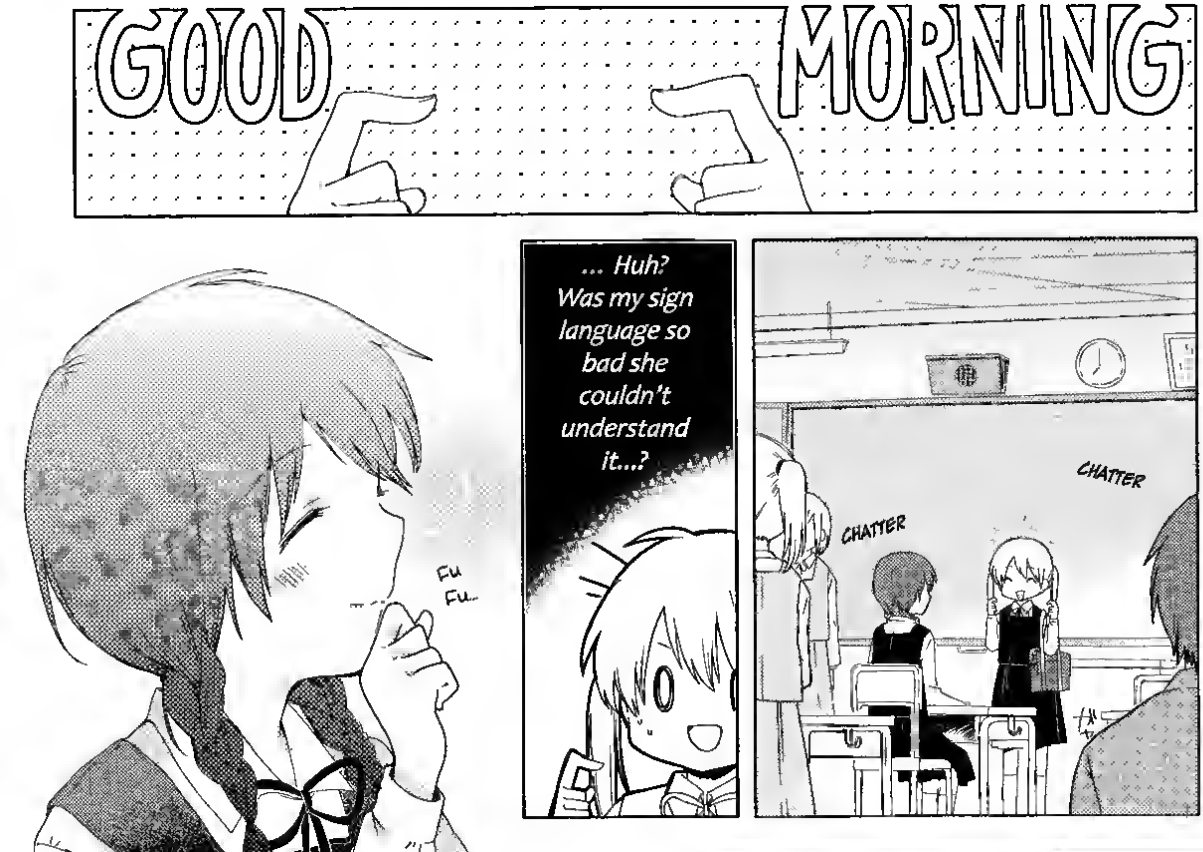
BUMP
Tobe-san...
.....
Wanna take a break?
Tobe-san, how do you usually hold conversations?
Through writing is fine
Or, if I watch the movement of someone's lips, I can usually get the gist of what they're saying
Hohhh?

Scribble
So, what are your hobbies? What's your favorite food? What subjects are you good at?
Ehhh?!
SCRIBBLE
Scribble
Scribble
Do you like music, Hachiya-san?
Ah, yeah! I do, I do!!
I may not look it, but I'm actually pretty good at piano.
Sur-prising, right?
Like this sheet music!
はぁぁ

What!? But how do you listen to music!?
Do you like music, Hachiya-san?
I like listening to music, too!
Ho-!
RUMMAGE
RUMMAGE
THUMP
Ohh
THUMP
Ahh, is that one of those hearing aid things ...?
Hohh...
Now that I think about it, ur teache has a gadget like that, t
Ah
Mic
The sound is carried by the hearing aid, huh?
Holy crap! That little gadget lets you hear!?

I want to know all about you, Tobe-san!!
Okay then, tell me your favorite songs and stuff!
Hey, you two. You can finish up now, if you'd like.
Ah, yes ma'am.
I'm going to borrow a few books, and then I'll head home.
Kaoru-chan said it would be hard to become friends with her...
The
sy Sign
nguage
Book

Alright!
I'm gettin' all excited!! Time to play some piano!!!
JAMING!
What time do you think it is, young lady!?
But it wasn't hard at all.
Tobe-san's just a normal girl, like everyone else.


GOOD MORNING
Fu Fu...
... Huh? Was my sign language so bad she couldn't understand it...?
CHATTER
CHATTER

Good morning.
From that day on, the interaction between me and Takako began.
Takako, the singer on this CD you lent me was so good!!!
I fell in love with her too!!
Yeah, I wish I could sing like she does...
She really loves singing, huh...?

"I'm – wai – ting – for – you – in – front – of – the – mu – sic – room."
And, sent!
Takako's late...
We promised we'd walk home together
SLIIIDE

Haa~... There's nothing better than the sound of a grand piano...
JAHNG
CLAP
CLAP

Jeez! If you were already here, you should've said something!
Blush
Blush
Som
clap
clap
Huh? Takako, you were able to hear the piano?
Nao, you play really well!
Wow!
Sorry, I can't hear instruments very well.
But,
I still love the sound of your piano.

...
I couldn't really hear it,
but I could just tell!
Ah!! I know! Since you did me the favor of listening to my performance, I've got a reward for you.
?
Squee
Ehehe~! Thanks!!

カラオケ!!
Why not? Don't you like singing, Takako?
SWISH
SWISH
We're gonna sing our butts off today!!!
Yeah, but...
I'm pretty bad...

Okay, how 'bout I sing with you?
Ah!!
Well it's a bit too late to be worried about that.
Jeez
BEEP
I'm not that great a singer either, you know!

Wow, that really is bad.
Alright!! Time for some tambourine accompaniment!!
SHAKA
SHAKA
BOING!
... But, Takako looks like she's having fun.

Sure, her voice may not be any good,
and her intervals may be all over the place,
But still,
I love this song of Takako's.

... And that's all about the June Chorus competition.
Nao! Good luck playin' piano for the competition!
Mmm!! I'll do my best!!
Hachiya-san.
You got a minute?
It's about
Tobe-san...
?

not to show up on the day of the Chorus competition.
We were thinking you could tell Tobe-san
Why?
Huh?
She's a burden.
And, apparently, she doesn't realize how much of a burden she is, so–
If you're worried about being in tune, I'll do my best with the piano playing...
Wha–!... That's mean!
We heard her sing during music class last year... Nobody can stay in tune with her around.

Rika, hold on! She's sitting right over there...
So what?
It's not like she can hear us, anyway.

Yeah...
Let's go.
TAP
TAP
There are people who can't be accepting of others all over this world, y'know?
There's nothing you can do, Nao...
She's a burden!
And she doesn't even realize how much of a burden she is!
Why do they all have to say stuff like that?

Is there really nothing I can do?
Ah! Th-this isn't right...
Takako's the one
Why am I crying like this?
whose feelings were hurt...

Did they give you a rough time
because of me?
I'm sorry.

!!
No!
It wasn't your fault!
Music Room

I'll play the piano for you, so go ahead!
?!
Right here?
?!
We're going to sing!
I want to
sing with you, Takako.

This singing...
Is that Tobe-san?

So, listen... There's this piano recital coming up.
Takako never really improved, but in the end, everyone still sang with her.
From then on, until the Chorus competition, we practiced together.
Takako sang, and I played the piano, every single day.

I want to hear even more of your sounds, Nao.
Awww, you're makin me blush!!
I'll go, I'll go!! I'll definitely go!!!
I'm going to be participating, so if you'd like...
Hoh..?
I want to be with you even more.
This tiny melody connecting the two of us
had only just sounded its first notes.
End

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